

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONSULTATION ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 2869, (B) YAOUNDE 2851, (C) YAOUNDE 2795,
(D) STATE 140672, (E) STATE 137343

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY JUNE 9TH CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE IRAQI RESOLUTION IN THE SSOD AND ZIMBABWE, (SEE REFTELS A AND B) WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA, I ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF SHABA. KEUTCHA TRACED HIS WELL-KNOWN HISTORY OF CAMEROON'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN AFFAIRS BY BEGINNING WITH SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF CAMEROON TO AVERT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION BY THE OAU OF THE MPLA AT THE 1976 OAU MAURITIUS CONFERENCE AND THE SUBSEQUENT FAILURE OF THE US EITHER TO SUPPORT ADEQUATELY THE MOVEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO THE MPLA OR GAIN ACCEPTANCE THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN KISSINGER AND GROMYKO ON LIMITING SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA. AS A RESULT THEROF, THE MPLA ACHIEVED VICTORY IN ANGOLA AND CAMEROON WAS FORCED TO RECOGNIZE IT AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT.

2. KEUTCHA SAID THAT IN THE PRESENT SITUATION ITHE GURC WAS
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HANDICAPPED BY THE LIMITED INFORMATION WHICH IT HAD AND, IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION, THERE WERE TWO ELEMENTS OF THE SITUATION WHICH HE FELT WERE IMPORTANT. FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE OF OUR SUPERIOR ASSESTS HE ACCEPTED US STATEMENTS ON SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN PREPARING THE KATANGANS FOR THE INCURSION INTO SHABA. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT ON BOTH OCCASIONS WHEN THE KATANGANS ENTERED SHABA THEY WERE FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY

THE LOCAL POPULATION. HE FELT THIS WAS SIGNIFICANT AND CONTRASTED IT TO THE EXPERIENCE OF CAMEROON DURING THE TIME OF THE UPC REBELLION, SUPPORTED BY EASTERN EUROPEAN AND RADICAL STATES, WHEN HE SERVED AS PREFECT OF MIFI(BAFOUSSAM) AND MENOUA (DSCHANG), BOTH OF WHICH WERE CENTERS OF UNREST. HE STATED THAT BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE REBELLION, PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND OTHER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT STUDIED THE SITUATION IN TERMS OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HISTORICAL CAUSES FOR THE UNREST. AS A RESULT THEREOF, DISPENSARIES, SCHOOLS, ROADS, AND OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES WERE PROVIDED, LEADERS FROM THE DISAFFECTED AREA WERE BROUGHT INTO CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES WERE DEVOLVED SO THAT THE LOCAL POPULATION WOULD HAVE A GREATER SENSE OF PARTICIPATION IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. HE THEN ASKED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION, "WHAT HAS MOBUTU DONE BETWEEN SHABA I AND SHABA II TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE PEOPLE OF SHABA?"

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE CURRENT EVENTS IN SHABA, KEUTCHA READILY ACCEPTS THE PREMISE THAT EACH GOVERNMENT HAS THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO CALL IN WHATEVER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IT FEELS IT NEEDS IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH AN ECONOMIC OR SECURITY PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THE ONE WORRISOME ASPECT ABOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AS HE SAW IT, WAS HOW LONG IT WOULD LAST. HE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS WERE LEAVING SHABA AFTER THEIR JOB WAS COMPLETED; HOWEVER, THE

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SOVIETS AND CUBANS HAVE REMAINED IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA FOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. HE ALSO DEPLORED ROLE OF ANGOLA IN FURNISHING SAFEHAVEN FOR THE KATAGANS, BUT ACCEPTED KAUNDA'S STATEMENT THAT HE COULD NOT CONTROL CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS IN NORTHWEST ZAMBIA. IN PARTICULAR, WITH RESPECT TO THE US, HE WELCOMED THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THAT WE WERE GIVING TO THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

4. COMMENT: AGAIN, AS IN MY COMMENTS ON THE OPINION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE PRESIDENCY (REFTEL C) I MUST NOTE A CERTAIN UNANIMITY IN AFRICAN OPINION THAT MOBUTU HAS NOT TAKEN ADEQUATE MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE DISAFFECTION OF THE PEOPLE OF SHABA WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. WHILE LISTENING TO KEUTCHA, I WAS REMINDED OF THE APTNESS OF THE QUOTATION FROM MAO TSE TUNG TO THE EFFECT THAT KATANGANS MAY BE THE FISH AND THE PEOPLE OF SHABA THE WATER. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED THAT WHILE THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE PRESIDENCY SPEAKS FROM A WELL-REASONED, INTELLECTUAL POSITION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS FROM THE HEART AND WITH DEEP CONVICTION.

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